



Saint Louis Audubon

Bulletin

March, 1962

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FINAL SCREEN TOUR: ARTHUR C. TWOMEY NORTH TO THE POLAR SEA, ON AWARD NIGHT

Tuesday, April 3

Third Baptist Church, Grand and Washington 8:15 p. m.

The excitement and beauty of the brief but turbulent summer season in the frozen tundra of the far Northwest Territories of Canada, 300 miles inside the Arctic Circle, is shared with Screen Tour audiences by Arthur Twomey, famed naturalist of the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh.

In the remote Mackenzie River Delta, Dr. Twomey found what he had set out to find, the nesting grounds of the rare and beautiful tule goose, as well as golden plover, snow goose and the whistling swan.

Despite clouds of mosquitos and too much overcast, the coming of summer to the arctic is shown in its truly epic proportions. The warm rays of the midnight sun finally release a great northern river from its prison of winter ice, and turn barren tundra into blazing flower gardens. An almost unbelievable profusion of blooms of arctic lupine, wild rose and rhododendron spring forth from the frozen land. Waterfowl and shore birds return in uncounted thousands to nest and raise their young.

The Mackenzie Eskimos utilize the slim resources of the region and enjoy brief intervals of relaxation in a strenuous existence—drum dances and string games; whale hunts and reindeer roundups. This is an Audubon Screen Tour of exploration and adventure far north to the polar seas, a truly colorful film story of the top of the world.

Dr. Arthur C. Twomey is a veteran of fifteen expeditions into Canada's arctic and sub-arctic regions that have stretched from the Mackenzie River Delta on the west to the Labrador peninsula on the Atlantic coast. His brilliant color motion picture programs have been enthusiastically received by audiences from coast to coast.

THE PRESIDENT REPORTS

Why An Audubon Camp? Carl W. Buchheister, Director of the Audubon Camp of Maine from 1936-57 and now President of the National

Audubon Society has said:

"As surely as I know there is a sun in the heavens, I am certain that a knowledge of the world around us enriches one's life as does any other of the cultures—art, music or literature. By the 'world around us' I mean the whole created world of nature, a world of unbelievable beauty, where beauty lies not only in color, in form and in sound, but also in the order and law behind it all.

"Just as I am certain of these things, I believe that a knowledge of nature should be a part of one's culture. I know of no better place to gain such knowledge and all the happiness it provides than in an Audubon Camp."

Audubon Camps are located in California, Connecticut, Maine and Wisconsin. The 1962 season begins in June and runs into September. The price for two weeks \$110.00 plus transportation to and from the Camp.

The major purpose of the National Audubon Society of which the Saint Louis Audubon Society is a Branch, is to advance public understanding of the value and need of conservation of wildlife, plants, soil and water, and the relations of their intelligent treatment and wise use to human progress. The Audubon Camps are an important part of its education program. Leadership and teaching techniques, an integral part of ALL Audubon courses help campers to perfect ways of presenting ideas to others in classroom, summer camp, youth group or in the home. Materials used are readily available, adaptable, practical and inexpensive.

Wont you place a two-weeks session on your vacation schedule or consider one as a gift? It may well be the most rewarding experience of your life.

EARL H. HATH, President

Miss Sarah Owen, President of the St. Louis Nature Study Society, will be presented with a scholarship to an Audubon Camp at the Screen Tour Series, April 3rd. Miss Owen is a teacher in the St. Louis City school system. This scholarship to an Audubon camp was made possible through a contribution by Mrs. Oscar Thalinger.

SPRING BIRD WALKS OF THE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Bird walks begin in Forest Park on the last two Sundays in April and the first two Sundays in May.

Dates: April 22nd, Sunday
April 29th, Sunday
May 6th, Sunday
May 13th, Sunday

Meeting Place: Jefferson Memorial
Time: 7:30 a.m.

Information: Call Chairman of Walks, Martin Schweig Jr.,
FO. 1-4226

Due to conflict of dates the Arboretum Field Trip on Sunday, April 29th, is cancelled.

For beginners, Bird Walks in Shaws Garden

Dates: April 28th, Saturday
May 4th, Saturday

Meeting Place: Main Gate, Tower Grove Entrance
Time: 8:00 a.m.

Information: Call Chairman, Tony McColl, PR. 6-2779 or
FO. 7-1404 after 6:00 p.m.

Nature walks will be conducted the third Saturday and the last Sunday of each month at the Arboretum, Gray Summit. There will be no nature walk at the Arboretum on April 29th.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

John D. Whitney, dean of instruction, Harris Teachers College, and Board member of the St. Louis Audubon Society, was presented the Honor Key of Kappa Delta Pi, at a dinner of the honorary education society February 19.

Richard P. Grossenheider, famed wildlife artist and Board member of St. Louis Audubon Society, may be seen each Saturday, at 4:00 p.m., on Channel 4, presenting his program 'Wildlife'. Miss Pat Fontaine appears with Dick on this most interesting series of adventures with wildlife.

Rex Conyers will be missed as a leader on the Spring Bird Walks this year. Rex is now with the Florida Audubon Society and would welcome hearing from old and new friends. Address him at Route 1, Box 205, West Palm Beach.

Milton F. Duvall, Clarksville, Mo., reports twenty eagles on the Missouri River near his home. They will be leaving as the weather warms up, but there is still time for 'listers' and camera fans. Contact Mr. Duvall at the Duvall Motel.

The Fred Farrow and Martin Marecek families, 519 and 517 Angenette, Kirkwood, have had an invasion of people to see an invasion of evening grossbeaks. These rare transients from the north were seen in large numbers by many members of the Society. Evening grossbeaks in Columbia, Missouri were also reported by Mrs. R. M. Eastman.

Mrs. Dean Cole, member of the Burroughs Club of Kansas City, reports 1000 bohemian waxwings were seen by members of that Society in the Kansas City area. These rare transients were also seen in the St. Louis area by many birders.

Staff members of National Council of State Garden Clubs, 4401 Magnolia, sighted a house wren during the sleet storm, Wednesday, February 28. This is the earliest arrival reported since April 5, 1955.

Migrating Bird Watchers will be Mrs. Joel Massie and Mrs. Chris Arhos who are leaving shortly to bird in Texas on their way to the West Coast. Good Birding!

IN MEMORIAM

The Saint Louis Audubon Society regrets the loss, by death, of a long-time member, Edna (Mrs. E. W.) Schuman, 3633 Dover Place.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK

March 18-24

National Wildlife Week is sponsored each year throughout the nation. The theme for 1962, "To Insure Waterfowl For The Future by Conservation of Wetlands Which Benefit Man and Wildlife."



BY J. EARL COMFORT

St. Louis Area 1961 Birds in Review

A review of the St. Louis Area birding activity in brief shows a composite list of 262 species, 2 more than we were able to tabulate the previous year. There were 7 listers with 200 or more 1961 species, top birder being Walter (Wally) George, Jr., who amassed the amazing total of 243 in spite of his absence from our area as a Mo. U. student. Dick Anderson, who always compiles an enviable list, placed with 241, Mike Flieg showing with 219 in spite of his Mo. U. attendance. Other coveted listers with 200 or more kinds of St. Louis birds were Tony McColl, 211, Mildred (Mitzi) Anderson, 205, Jack Van Benthuyzen, 203, and Jack McDonald, 201. President, Earl Hath, had a very frustrating 199 species. Mitzi was again our only "200 club" member feminine bird lister with able assistance, of course, from hubby Dick.

Only 5 species deserved special mention with a Snowy Owl heading the list, followed by Baird's Sparrow, Purple Gallinule, Knot and Black-throated Blue Warbler. The owl, illegally shot in St. Charles County, is on display at the Shaw's Garden Arboretum St. Louis Audubon Nature Center Museum Bldg. The artistic mounting was done at the famous Schwarz Studio. The Sparrow was encountered at the August A. Busch Wildlife Area on Oct. 29th by Jim Comfort; the Gallinule kicked up by Wally George and Dave Easterla and others near the Jefferson Bks. Bridge in Illinois on May 7th. The Knot and Warbler are not of enough significance to call for verified lister comment. However, we non listers of these birds concede their importance.

Some other rarities worthy of notice were Eared Grebe, Snowy Egret, Harlan's Hawk, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Yellow-headed Blackbird and Evening Grosbeak.

The Warblers again led the families with 36 species, closely followed by the 33 members of the sparrow-finch tribe.

ST. LOUIS AREA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Orchard Farm, Mo. (all points within a 15 mile diameter circle centering on Orchard Farm to include Mississippi River bottomlands, sloughs and riverfront; bottomland sloughs 45%, untilled weed-grown fields, 26%, tilled fields 29%, approximately same terrain as last year).—Dec. 23; 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.; clear to cloudy; intermittent light snow in p.m.; temp. 28 deg. to 33 deg.; wind wnw 8-15 m.p.h.; ground hard frozen and bare; river unfrozen. Twelve observers in 1 party. Total party hours $8\frac{1}{4}$ ($7\frac{1}{2}$ on foot, $\frac{3}{4}$ by car); total party miles 18 (3 on foot, 15 by car) pied-billed grebe, 1; Great Blue Heron, 9; Mallard, 7621; Black Duck, 4; Pintail, 6; Canvasback, 112; Lesser Scaup, 17; Goldeneye, 15; Common Merganser, 23; Red-tailed Hawk, 7; Krider's Hawk, 1; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 3 (2 adults, 1 immature); Marsh Hawk, 15; Sparrow Hawk, 6; Herring Gull, 2; Ring-billed Gull, 35; Mourning Dove, 7; Barred Owl, 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 12; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 4; Red-headed Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 7; Northern Horned Lark, 5; Prairie Horned Lark, 306; Bluejay, 1; Crow, 37; Black-capped Chickadee, 3; Titmouse, 1;

White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Brown Creeper, 1; Starling, 611; House Sparrow, 729; European Tree Sparrow, 9; Meadowlark, 5; Redwinged Blackbird, 30; Crackle, 12; Cardinal, 7; Goldfinch, 35 Junco, 38 Tree Sparrow, 45; Swamp Sparrow, 4; Song Sparrow, 3; Lapland Longspur, 578. Total, 45 species about 10,366 individuals.—Kathryn Arhos, Dick Anderson, Alberta Bolinger, George Cameron, Earl Comfort (compiler), Earl Hath, Steve Hanselmann, Mr. and Mrs. Joel Massie, Robt. C. Quade, Fred Ruegsegger, Dorothea Vogel (St. Louis Audubon Society).

All in all, it was a good birding year with many pleasant days afield contributing relaxation and diversification.

SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING

Missouri Chapter of the Nature Conservancy

The sixth annual meeting of the Missouri Chapter of the Nature Conservancy will be held in Warrensburg, Missouri, Saturday and Sunday, April 28th and 29th. For details check with Earl H. Hath, YO. 5-8642.

WHOOPIING CRANE POPULATION IS UP

A record number of 38 whooping cranes wintered at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge on the Texas coast. This is two more than had been counted on previous counts this season and two more than the record of 36 set in 1961. In addition to the 38 wild whoopers, there are 7 in captivity—6 in the New Orleans zoo in Louisiana and 1 in San Antonio, Texas. When the official record-keeping began in 1938, there were only 14 whoopers in the wild and extinction of the species was feared.

TWO PLANS — WE PRESENT BOTH SIDES

The question of who administers the Current River-Eleven Point area is of great interest to everyone. There are differences of opinion as to which group might better administer the area. In order to present both sides on what is developing, we present two articles concerning this question exactly as submitted by two of our members.

"LET'S MAKE IT FOREST SERVICE"

To the Editor—St. Louis Audubon Society Bulletin:

To those who continue to support the original Forest Service plan for the Current and Eleven Point rivers (H.R. 6289), the word "preservation" remains the primary concern. These rivers stand out as unique not only for their springs, bluffs and caves, but because they are so quiet, so undeveloped, and so miraculously untouched by modern man's endless race toward Progress.

How would the Forest Service plan work?

1. The Forest Service would extend its boundaries, which currently cover 42 miles of shoreline, to include supervision of the entire 190 miles of the rivers. The Forest Service . . . with its forestry, wildlife and recreation-preservation programs, as originally introduced into the Current River country in the 1930's . . . has long been pointed to as being the motivating force in rejuvenating the health of the watersheds, and hence their beauty as we know them today.

The Forest Service leadership in rustic, dispersed rather than concentrated, natural recreation—such as exists in Minnesota's Boundary Waters canoe country—is unsurpassed, and in 1961 afforded enjoyment to 92,500,-000 visitors.

2. Based on the assumption that there still is room in America for quality, wilderness-type float fishing and camping, the Forest Service plan would freeze the natural beauty of the shorelines as they exist today. There would be no further developments, and no further timber cutting (a preservation practice which the Forest Service has always followed along the rivers . . . having decided 25 years ago that the recreational values of the riparian lands were paramount). The "development restriction" or "conservation easement" principle incorporated in the Forest Service bill would not only prohibit the owner from building or developing along the river, but would likewise keep the Forest Service itself from building any "improvements."

3. That is, instead of concentrating the visitors right along the rivers—necessitating frequent parking areas, picnic benches (which would very probably float downstream each spring with the annual high waters), and other tourist facilities—the Forest Service would build campgrounds and safe swimming, boating, fishing lakes within the 600,000 acres already under their control **BACK AWAY FROM THE RIVERS**. The rivers would remain as they are today: free-flowing streams for fisherman, campers, nature lovers who thrive amid Nature in her most unharnessed state.

4. Although hunting has always been an accepted use of the National Forests, the National Park System was conceived in 1916 as an inviolate wildlife sanctuary. The high standards of the Park Service, with "no hunting" one of the highest, must not be relinquished because of pressures at state levels for an expanded tourist economy. The Ozark Rivers National Monument, if created with hunting as proposed, would represent the precedent case for hunting in a national park or monument, which is one basic reason why **NOT ONE NATIONAL CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION**—including the National Audubon Society—can support the Park Service bill for the Ozarks.

Sincerely,
Kay Drey

515 West Point
St. Louis 30, Mo.

"IT'S BEAUTIFUL. LET'S MAKE IT A NATIONAL PARK"

By SPENCER JONES

One new citizen and one recent visitor, both by way of Arizona, are giving Missouri some new pride and stature. The citizen is University of Missouri football coach, Dan Devine, and the visitor is of course Secretary of Interior Stewart Udall.

Football success for our state doesn't require an act of Congress, but creation of a National Park to prolong and preserve the natural wonders of our Current, Jacks Fork and Eleven Point Rivers does. The visit of Secretary Udall has been enormously helpful. His suggestion that the Park Service proposal to authorize a National Monument for these rivers be up-graded to an Ozark Rivers National Park has inspired a positive attitude within and without the state.

Generally speaking, the state press has become solid, even enthused, for the Park. Individual opposition can be found, but it grows weaker by the day.

To understand this opposition it should be noted that it has three heads, three legs and many voices. There is first of all the owners of large commercial forests who are represented by the American Forestry Association. It is automatic policy that this group resists "locking up" forests in public ownership. In the second group are those people who have promoted high

dams for the rivers under discussion. Their strength is centered in Grandin and Doniphan. The third group opposing a National Monument or National Park is the one to really watch. They are the free open range grazers; they dominate the area politically, economically, socially and legally. They equate the entry of a federal agency into "their land" as a punitive invasion. They did not welcome the U. S. Forest Service in the 30's.

Political diversions, weak fabrications and heated accusations can be expected from individuals within these three groups. Only the free grazers are likely to try desperation tactics. They are in a panic as there is much evidence that high public officials in the state are pushing for the National Park as a deliberate tactic against open range. Be that as it may, these three groups have combined their opposition into one noisy unit called the Current Eleven Point Rivers Association—numbers unknown. They are not backed by the U. S. Forest Service as they have implied. They are, however, responsible for a so-called Forest Service plan of "scenic easements" to cover areas of the Current, Jacks Fork and Eleven Point Rivers.

To put the opposition in business Thomas B. Curtis, of the Missouri 2nd District, introduced a bill in Congress to extend the Clark National Forest and establish the "Ozark Scenic Riverways" (H.R. 6289). The Current Eleven Point Rivers Association gave it their blessing May 9, 1961; the U.S. Department of Agriculture spurned it in Senate and House committees in Congress. To add meaning to their disfavor of the Curtis bill the USDA supported bills introduced by Missouri Senators Symington and Long as well as that introduced in the House by 8th District Congressman Ichord. These were identical bills to authorize an Ozark Rivers National Monument.

Lest there be misunderstanding about the U. S. Forest Service in the Ozarks, it should be pointed out that their priority in Missouri is, by law and by administration, watershed improvement. This objective is being met handsomely. And in doing so, they are creating large blocks of quality timber, wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation. As a sort of reflex political action of all this success, Missouri passed the Forestry Act in 1946 setting up state forest districts and headquarters for fire protection and administration. Cooperation between the state and federal agency is superb.

The next session of Congress will, no doubt, give serious consideration to revised bills to authorize the Ozark Rivers National Park. Mr. Curtis' bill is in reality a road block and will fall by the wayside, but it will remain as a classical example of special interest groups in political action.

To make a final point, let it be supposed that the Ozark Rivers National Park becomes a going concern. Then, at some time in the foreseeable future, our General Assembly might be persuaded to pass several acts which protected the watersheds of our state in a more positive manner. As an example a system of permits could be required before owners or managers were allowed to burn, "goat off," bulldoze, plow or clear-cut forestland in areas adjacent to streams and springs of our state. As of right now, such bills would be dead shortly after being introduced, so a big change in political thinking is needed before this idea has a chance. A National Park in Missouri could bring about that change.

DRAMATIC NEW FILM

THE BALD EAGLE, the first authentic natural history film, on our National Bird, in color and sound, running time 33 minutes, is now available. This film produced by Bayard W. Read and Dr. Arthur A. Allen for the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology may be obtained from the National Audubon Society. Sale price per print \$210.00 and rental for public showing \$7.50.

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Miss Alberta Bolinger.....Executive Secretary

HELP SAVE THE GOLDEN EAGLE

On February 4, The House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries held a hearing on House Joint Resolutions 479 and 487, the Golden Eagle protection bills.

The hearings went well and the resolutions were endorsed by four National conservation organizations. However, additional help on your part is needed to speed these important bills through Congress. Congresswoman L. K. Sullivan of St. Louis is a member of the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. Contact Mrs. Sullivan at the earliest possible date requesting prompt and favorable Committee action on the above mentioned Golden Eagle bills.

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